



# Overview of IMLS Grants, Research, and Policy Work

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# Session Overview

- IMLS, broadly
- Applying for IMLS library grants
- Other IMLS opportunities



# About IMLS

## Who are we?

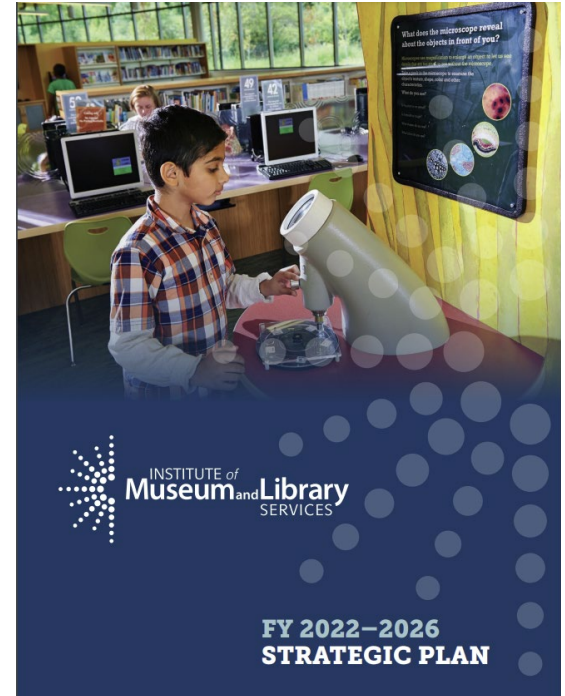
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums.

## What do we do?

- We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant-making, research, and policy development.

# GOAL 1: Champion Lifelong Learning

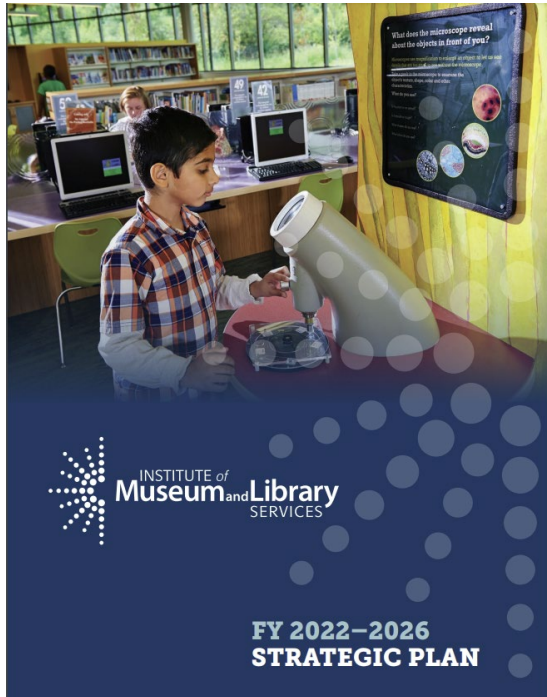
- Advance shared knowledge and learning opportunities for all.
- Support the training and professional development of the museum and library workforce.



INSTITUTE of  
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SERVICES

FY 2022–2026  
STRATEGIC PLAN

# GOAL 2: Strengthen Community Engagement

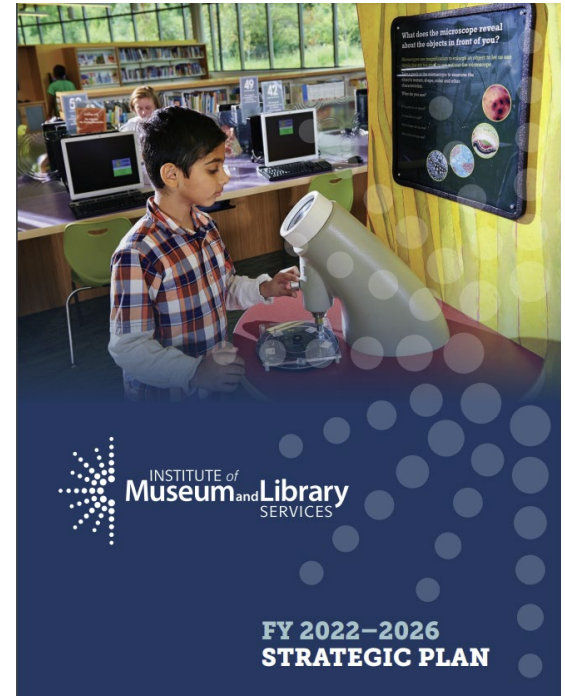


- Promote inclusive engagement across diverse audiences.
- Support community collaboration and foster civic discourse

# GOAL 3: Advance Collections Stewardship and Access

- Support collections care and management.
- Promote access to museum and library collections.

<https://imls.gov/about-us/strategic-plan>



## **Funding Streams FY2024**

**\$211M:** Library Services and Technology Act

Grants to States, National Leadership Grants, Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program, Native American/Native Hawaiian

**\$43M:** Museum Services Act

**\$6M:** African American History and Culture Act

**\$6M:** National Museum of the American Latino Act

**\$28M:** Museum and Library Services Act

Data collection/analysis & administration

# IMLS Research/Publications (Web-based)



## Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2021

### Data File Documentation and User's Guide



JUNE 2023

## Access to Public Library Services and Materials During the First Nine Months of the COVID-19 Pandemic

MAY 2023



### Highlights

- While library buildings were closed to the public, 62 percent of libraries intentionally provided Wi-Fi internet access to users outside the buildings.
- The percentage of libraries that allowed patrons to register for library cards online without needing to be physically present more than doubled—to 64 percent—during the pandemic.
- Usage of electronic materials increased 25 percent from FY 2019 to FY 2020, according to median electronic circulation per person in library service areas.

### Introduction

In early 2020, as Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) infections spread and the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, it became clear that how people received public services would need to change, including how they accessed public library resources.

In late March 2020, the Public Library Association conducted a survey, and of the 2,900 libraries that responded, 76 percent indicated that they were expanding their online checkout services, 63 percent were expanding virtual programs, and 46 percent were expanding virtual reference service, all because their physical locations were closed to the public (Goek, 2021).

To better understand these dynamics across the entire universe of libraries, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), with representatives from several state library administrative agencies, developed a special section of 15 survey questions for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Public Libraries Survey (PLS) to obtain a comprehensive picture of how libraries responded to COVID-19.

The purpose of this research brief is to share findings from those questions to illustrate how libraries adapted to COVID-19 to meet the needs of their communities. During the first nine months of the pandemic, almost all libraries closed their buildings to visitors,

for anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. However, they also transformed many of their services to function virtually by enabling online registration for access to electronic resources, expanding availability of electronic materials, boosting Wi-Fi signals and duration, allowing for distribution of physical materials outside of the building, and offering virtual library programs.

An IMLS research brief released in 2021 used FY 2014 and FY 2018 PLS data to establish pre-pandemic trends in circulation of physical and electronic library materials (IMLS, 2021). This brief continues that prior analysis using electronic circulation data from FYs 2018, 2019, and 2020 to further explore changes to patron usage of library resources in the wake of COVID-19.

This research brief contains two main sections that address how libraries adapted service models during the first nine months of the pandemic (up to December 2020): (1) providing hybrid access to services, and (2) continuing to provide access to materials.

### Data & Methodology

The PLS is a collaboration between IMLS and the state library administrative agencies of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five outlying territories. Due to differences in how and when states collect each cycle's data

\*Electronic materials include e-books and downloadable electronic video and audio files, and circulation is limited to items that require a user authentication and have a limited period of use.

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202-453-IMLS (4637)



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## Museum Leadership in Dynamic Times

### An IMLS Leadership Convening

March 2–3, 2023 · Washington, DC





# Applying for IMLS Library Grants



# Examples of what IMLS Can/Cannot Fund

- Salaries/consultants/student support
- Equipment/supplies
- Professional development, including travel
- CANNOT FUND: Construction/Renovation, Entertainment, Advocacy



# High-level Options

- Apply through your state library (Grants to States)
  - NOTE: only some states offer competitive grants, and eligibility varies
- Apply directly to IMLS
  - Generally a higher bar in a nationally competitive field
  - Cannot typically support the digitization of content or pre-digitization activities such as inventorying collections

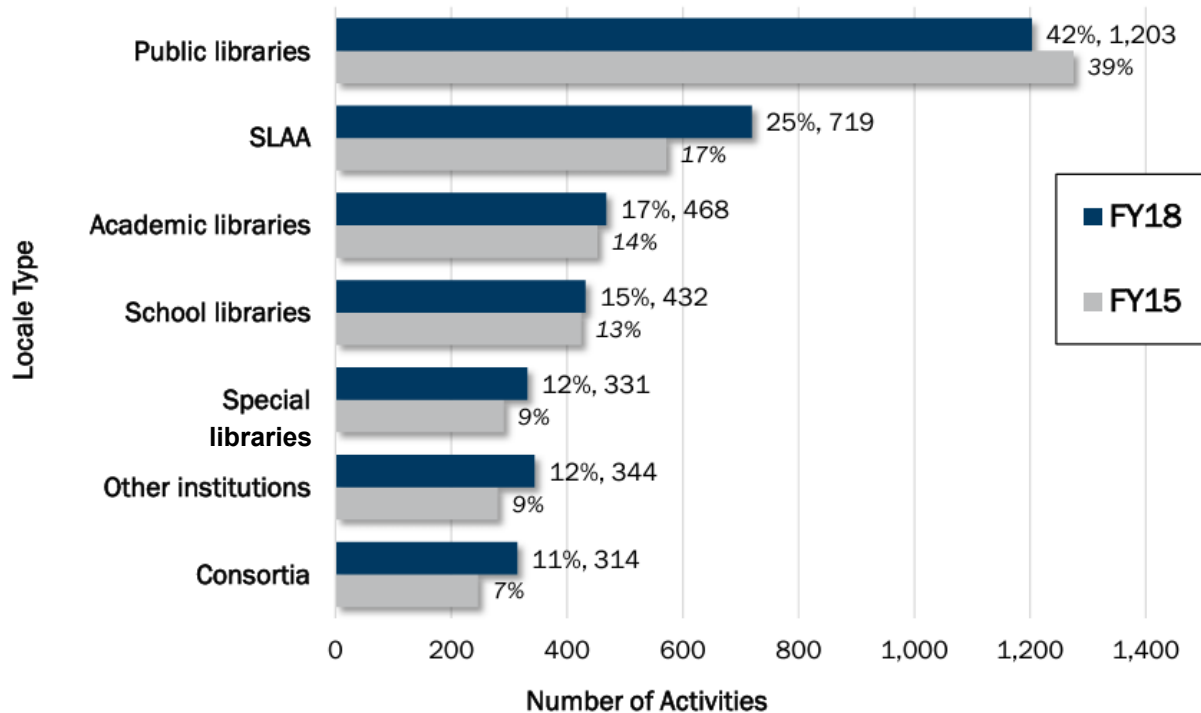


# Grants to States (LSTA), Broadly

- \$180M divided across states (population-based formula)
- Each state defines its priorities for spending through a five-year plan
- Some states do offer competitive subgrants and some don't
- Each state defines its own eligible library types

# What Types of Libraries Benefit from IMLS Funds?

## Grants to States (LSTA) Activity Locales, FY15/FY18



# Apply Through Your State Library: First Steps

- Does your state offer competitive library grants?
- If yes, who's eligible? What's the deadline?
  - Check the state library website (state-by-state listing on the IMLS website)

[Home](#) » [Grants](#) » [Grant Programs](#) » [Grants to States](#) » State Profiles

## Grants to States: State Profiles

The [Grants to States](#) program is the largest source of federal funding support for library services in the U.S. Learn more about how the funds are used in your state.

State	Contact	Title	State Library Address
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	Dr. Nancy C. Pack	Director	<a href="#">Alabama Public Library Service</a> 6030 Monticello Drive 36130-6000 Montgomery , AL
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	Ms. Patience Frederiksen	State Librarian and Director	<a href="#">Alaska Department of Education, Division of Libraries, Archives &amp; Museums</a> ⓘ P.O. Box 110571

<https://www.imls.gov/grants/grants-state/state-profiles>



# Apply Through Your State Library: Next Steps

- Does the five-year plan support this kind of work?
- Who can I contact for more information?
  - Check the IMLS state profile for plan highlights and contact info

## Arizona

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**Contact Name:** Ms. Holly Henley

**Contact Title:** State Librarian and Director of Library Services

**State Library Address:** Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 West Washington 7th Floor  
85007-2818 Phoenix , AZ

**Phone:** +1 602 542 6200

**Fax:** +1 602 256 7983

**Contact Email Address:** [hhenley@azlibrary.gov](mailto:hhenley@azlibrary.gov) 

**Link:** [Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records](#) 

## Five-Year Plan Highlights

**Goal 1: Information Access** - Arizona's residents will have access to information in a variety of formats, tapping the capabilities of current and emerging technologies.

- Projects include:
  - Statewide databases
  - Statewide resource sharing
  - **Government information digitization**



# Examples of LSTA-funded FDL P Projects

- **Arizona: 2020, \$111,591, "State Publications":**  
The goal of the project was increase the total number of items available and accessible in the Arizona State Publications collection.
- **Arkansas: 2021, \$195,148, "Digital Services":** This project provided access to government information sources to the public, libraries and government entities via the library fulfilling its roles as the official State Documents Depository, State and Local Government Publications Clearinghouse, and the Regional Federal Depository Library for the state of Arkansas.
- **New York: 2022, \$561,266, "Customer Support to Libraries":** As New York State's Regional Federal Depository, the State Library has responsibility for the 65 selective federal depositories across the state. In this role, the State Library served as backup for reference and interlibrary loan and provided consulting services to these selective depository libraries.



# Other Resources from Your State Library

- Even if your state can't fund your project idea, are there other grant-funded resources you could benefit from?
  - Professional development
  - Shared resources/services
  - State library consulting



# IMLS Grant Programs for Libraries

- **Discretionary**

National Leadership Grants for Libraries

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Native American Library Services: Basic Grants

Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants

Native Hawaiian Library Services



Nooksack Tribal Library

# National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG)

<b>Program Goal</b>	<b>Supports projects with broad impact that <i>address critical needs</i> of the library and archives fields, have the <i>potential to advance practice</i> nationally in these professions, and strengthen library and archival services for the American public.</b>
<b>Anticipated Deadline</b>	<b>September 20, 2024 for preliminary proposal</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1-3 years, depending on funding category</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$50,000 to \$1,000,000</b>



<https://imls.gov/grants/available/national-leadership-grants-libraries>

# Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian (LB21)



<b>Program Goal</b>	<b>Support the development of a diverse workforce of librarians and archivists in order to meet the information needs of their communities.</b>
<b>Anticipated Deadline</b>	<b>September 20, 2024 for preliminary proposal</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1-3 years, depending on funding category</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$50,000 to \$1,000,000</b>

<https://imls.gov/grants/available/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program>

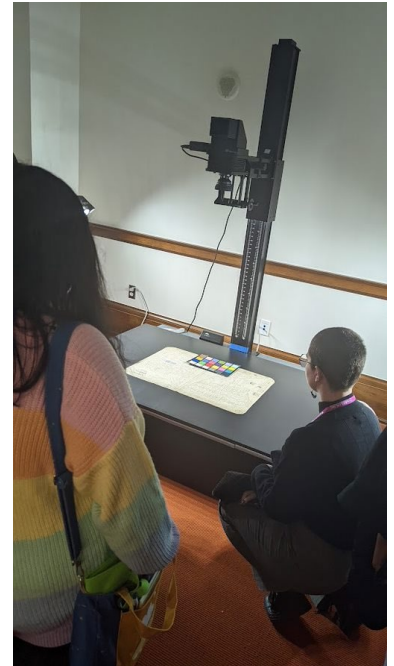
# Recent Discretionary Awards

## University of North Texas (2022)

- University of Chicago
- Improving access to digital resources housed in web archives
- <https://imls.gov/grants/awarded/Ig-252349-ols-22>

## Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (2009)

- Penobscot Nation in Maine, University of Arizona
- Enhanced education and professional training on intellectual property and Indigenous data sovereignty
- <https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/Ig-07-09-0095-09>

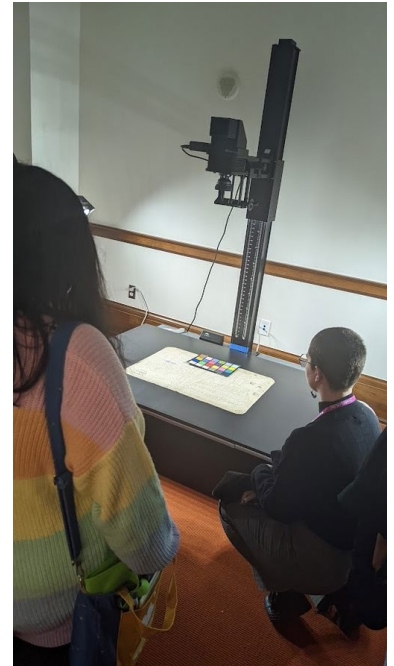


Old Dominion University, Slover Library, RE-252368-OLS-22

# Recent Discretionary Awards

## University of North Texas (2017)

- University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Missouri, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, Yale University, the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), the Educopia Institute, and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
- National forums in 2018 to address national concerns regarding the preservation of electronic government information (PEGI)
- <https://imls.gov/grants/awarded/lg-88-17-0129-17>



Old Dominion University, Slover Library, RE-252368-OLS-22

# Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants

<b>Program Goal</b>	To assist Native American tribes in improving core library services for their communities.
<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Digital Services</li><li>▪ Educational Programming</li><li>▪ Preservation and Revitalization</li></ul>
<b>Deadline</b>	April 1, 2025
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 2 years
<b>Funding</b>	\$10,000-\$150,000



# Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants

<b>Program Goal</b>	<b>To assist Native Hawaiian libraries in improving core library services for their communities.</b>
<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Digital Services</li><li>▪ Educational Programming</li><li>▪ Preservation and Revitalization</li></ul>
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>April 1, 2025</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Up to 2 years</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$10,000-\$150,000</b>
<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>None required</b>



<https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/native-hawaiian-library-services>





# Apply Directly to IMLS: Resources

- Grant programs: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/grant-programs>
  - Deadlines
  - Program Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Application process
  - Staff contacts (talk with a program staff member before submission)
  - Webinars
- Awarded grants: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants>



# Other IMLS Opportunities



# IMLS Reviewers

## Join in!

Proposals submitted for IMLS competitive awards are reviewed by library professionals who understand the needs of library communities



<https://www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review>

# National Medal for Museum and Library Service

- National Medal Nomination Deadline: fall 2024
- 15 Library/15 Museum Finalists
- 4 Library/4 Museum Recipients; Libraries in 2023:
  - Kuskokwim Consortium Library (Bethel, AK)
  - LA County Library (Los Angeles, CA)
  - Long Branch Free Public Library (Long Branch, NJ)
  - Toledo Lucas County Public Library (Toledo, OH)
- All nominees will be notified of their status in spring



<https://imls.gov/our-work/national-medal-museum-and-library-service>

# Questions?

- Contacts:
  - Teri DeVoe, Associate Deputy Director, Grants to States:  
[tdevoe@imls.gov](mailto:tdevoe@imls.gov)
  - Anthony D. Smith, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Library Services:  
[asmith@imls.gov](mailto:asmith@imls.gov)

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# Credits and Citations

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- Slide 13, "What Types of Libraries": data from Grants to States (LSTA) Activity Locales, FY15/FY18.
- Slides 14-15, "Apply Through Your State Library": screenshots from IMLS website.
- Slide 17, "Other Resources": Photo: Tuzzy Consortium Library program in northern Alaska featuring Ishmael Hope. Used with permission.
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